

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 288156  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-06 CU-04 COME-00 /023 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:AKRAUSE:EM  
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:SMCCALL  
USIA/IEU:SDEMITZ  
USIA/ICS:TCRAIG  
CU/EE:YRICHMOND (INFO)  
COMMERCE:WKEASBY (INFO)  
-----036758 022123Z /66  
P R 022041Z DEC 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET EXHIBIT ENDS SUCCESSFUL LOS ANGELES RUN

REFS: A) STATE 276325, B) STATE 181555

1. SOVIET 60TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION IN LOS ANGELES  
CLOSED NOVEMBER 29 AFTER HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL 17-DAY RUN.  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE WAS 323,000. LARGEST SINGLE DAY'S ADMIS-  
SION WAS 27,919 ON NOVEMBER 25. BOTH FIGURES BROKE CON-  
VENTION CENTER ATTENDANCE RECORDS.
2. AT CLOSING PRESS CONFERENCE, DIRECTOR VLADELIN  
LEPESHKIN THANKED MEDIA FOR HELPFUL PUBLICITY AND DECLARED  
HIMSELF "EXTREMELY HAPPY" WITH RECEPTION BY PEOPLE OF  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. STATE/USIA ESCORT REX HIMES REPORTS  
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SIMILAR WARMTH IN LEPESHKIN'S AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR BELOV'S  
PRIVATE REMARKS TO HIM.

3. EXTENSIVE AND MAINLY FAVORABLE MEDIA PUBLICITY DOUBT-  
LESSLY CONTRIBUTED TO EXHIBIT'S SUCCESS. ACCORDING TO  
CLIPPING SERVICE, OVER 50 DIFFERENT STORIES ON EXHIBITION  
APPEARED IN 23 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PUBLICATIONS.

4. EXHIBIT STAFF HAS ENJOYED LAVISH HOME HOSPITALITY FROM "COMMITTEE TO WELCOME SOVIET EXHIBIT" AND OTHER HOSTS. IN ADDITION, SOVIETS RECEIVED FREE BALLET TICKETS AND REDUCED RATE ADMISSION TO DISNEYLAND AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS.

5. EXHIBITION WAS PEACEFUL DURING FINAL DAYS. THERE WERE NO SERIOUS DISTURBANCES AFTER NOVEMBER 15 ARREST OF RABBI KAHANE (REF A). BALTIC, UKRAINIAN AND ARMENIAN GROUPS, PLUS YOUNG AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM AND A GROUP TO PROTECT WHALES PICKETED OUTSIDE CONVENTION CENTER FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT FIRE MARSHALS KEPT DEMONSTRATORS MORE THAN 100 FEET FROM ENTRANCE. COMMISSION ON SOVIET JEWRY (CSJ) ATTEMPTED TO PRESENT PETITION ON JEWISH EMIGRATION WITH 10,000 SIGNATURES TO SOVIET EXHIBIT DIRECTOR LEPESHKIN, BUT DID NOT PROTEST REJECTION, WHICH LEPESHKIN SOFTENED WITH SUGGESTION THEY PRESENT PETITION TO SOVIET CONGEN IN SAN FRANCISCO. CSJ ANNOUNCED THAT ITS EXHIBIT DREW 66,000 VISITORS.

6. DEPT. PURCHASED SUIT, SHIRT, AND TIE FOR EXHIBIT GUIDE TO REPLACE CLOTHING DAMAGED IN INK-THROWING INCIDENT. THERE IS POSSIBILITY DEPT. WILL BE COMPENSATED BY DAMAGE AWARD IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT.

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7. AMONG MOST POPULAR ATTRACTIONS AT SOVIET EXHIBIT WERE SCALE MODEL PANORAMA OF MOSCOW, FASHION SHOW BY UKRAINIAN HOUSE OF FASHION FEATURING WOMEN'S MODIFIED PEASANT COSTUMES, AND ARMENIAN ARTIST KAZARIAN'S MICROSCOPIC MINIATURE PAINTINGS AND CARVINGS--SUCH AS GRAIN OF RICE WITH FOUR FACETS DEPICTING STATUE OF LIBERTY, KREMLIN, BERING STRAIT, AND A FLYING DOVE OF PEACE.  
VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 276325, 77 STATE 181555  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009